

Prior even to becoming a State, Oklahoma was designated Indian Territory. Native Americans have been a huge part of Oklahoma history and have provided a vibrant culture and long list of traditions that continue to enrich the lives of our citizens.

In the late 19th century, American pioneers arrived in Oklahoma after a series of land runs held by the federal government. They came from every corner of the country looking for their piece of the American dream.

In 1907 we became a State, and it has been a century of both hardships and blessings. But no matter what challenges Oklahoma families face, and we have had our share, the men and women of this great State have always come out stronger.

Today, 100 years after achieving statehood, we have much to offer—a tremendous quality of life, a work ethic second to none, and a pioneer spirit that is just as much alive as it was a century ago.

During Oklahoma's relatively short life, our State has left a significant footprint on American culture. Will Rogers, Woody Guthrie, Ralph Ellison, Thom Stafford, and Jim Thorpe are just a few of the American icons who hail from Oklahoma. No other state has produced more astronauts. We have been on the forefront of energy production and agriculture. If you like country music, Oklahoma has produced the stars: Garth Brooks, Toby Keith, Reba McEntyre, Vince Gill, and Carrie Underwood, just to name a few of our talented musicians. And, oh yes, we've been known to play a little football too.

Of course, there are millions of others whose names will never appear in history books, and we honor them as well. It is those unsung heroes that remind me, as they should remind all of us, that compassion, hard work, and a spirit of adventure can bring both success and happiness. Truly, I can think of no greater honor than to represent them in the United States Congress.

Thank you, and may God bless Oklahoma.

EQUAL RIGHTS FOR HEALTH CARE ACT—TITLE 42

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 28, 2007

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce the "Equal Rights for Health Care Act—Title 42." Our Founding Fathers wisely wrote that all Americans should have the equal rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. In order to have life one must be healthy and have adequate healthcare. Ensuring those rights of my constituents and the American people is our primary responsibility as Members of Congress. H.R. 4849 will prohibit discrimination of health care services and research programs that receive Federal funding based on sex, race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability status.

The civil rights laws have historically been a powerful mechanism for effecting necessary

change in the United States. Each law represents a national commitment to end discrimination and establish a mandate to bring the excluded into the mainstream. These equal rights laws ensure that the Federal government delivers on the Constitution's promise of equal opportunity so that every individual has the right to develop his or her talents. Healthcare should not be an exception to this precedent.

In 1971, only 18 percent of all women, compared to 26 percent of all men, had completed 4 or more years of college. In 1972, Title IX was introduced by Representative Edith Green of Oregon. In 2007, celebrating the 35th Anniversary of Title IX, which assured woman's right to education equality, the U.S. Department of Education showed 56 percent of all women compared to 44 percent of all men in four or more years of college. This mandate created a sea of change in our expectations of what equal funding could achieve.

Federal law prohibits discrimination across a wide array of public policy arenas, none more so than in relation to voting and public education rights. The "Equal Rights for Health Care Act—Title 42" H.R. 4849 seeks to have the same effect in the health care community. With the introduction of H.R. 4849, we as a Congress, are taking another step toward equal rights and I look forward to working with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to accomplish this goal.

CHIMP HAVEN IS HOME ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM MCCRERY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. MCCRERY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1916, the Chimp Haven is Home Act. S. 1916 is companion legislation to a bill I introduced with Congressman MELANCON, H.R. 3295. In 2000, President Clinton signed into law the "Chimpanzee Health Improvement, Maintenance and Protection Act"—otherwise known as the CHIMP Act. The CHIMP Act provided for the establishment and operation of a system to provide lifetime care to chimpanzees that were used, or were bred or purchased for use, in research conducted or supported by the Federal Government AND who are no longer needed for such research. The system envisioned by the CHIMP Act is now a reality in Keithville, Louisiana. It is called Chimp Haven.

Chimp Haven is now home to 123 chimpanzees. As a relatively new organization, Chimp Haven faces the challenge of raising money from the private sector. This challenge has been heightened due to concerns that the CHIMP Act theoretically permits chimpanzees to be removed from Chimp Haven and used for medical research. Private financial support is important for Chimp Haven because the CHIMP Act requires the 501(c)(3) to obtain significant matching funds for its operating and construction costs.

This legislation removes the "return to medical research clause" from the law and will

give everyone involved with Chimp Haven peace of mind because the chimpanzees will be able to grow old peacefully in their new home and they cannot be removed for research purposes. The legislation will not adversely affect human health research, as these chimpanzees were deemed unfit for further experimentation. The resident chimpanzees at Chimp Haven are currently able to be studied in a non-invasive manner and S. 1916 will not change that ability.

The chimpanzees at Chimp Haven have spent their lives in research laboratories helping to improve the lives of all Americans. Many of our discoveries in space and medicine are due to chimpanzees. I am proud to help modify the existing law to ensure chimpanzees at Chimp Haven will spend their final years happily.

IN MEMORY OF BETH SHARON SAMUELS

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 28, 2007

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, this week marks the first anniversary in the Hebrew calendar of the passing of Beth Sharon Samuels, an extraordinary constituent who lost her life to cancer in January 2007 at the age of thirty-one.

Beth grew up in Los Angeles, attending the Yeshiva University High School of Los Angeles and graduating as valedictorian. She went on to study at a women's seminary in Israel before graduating from Columbia University with a degree in mathematics. She then completed a three-year program at the Drisha Institute in Bible and Talmud, a Ph.D. in math at Yale, and earned an assistant professorship at the University of California, Berkeley. In the meantime, she gave birth to a daughter Danelle and later to daughter Natalia while undergoing intensive chemotherapy treatments.

Beth coupled her academic talent with a passion for Jewish learning. During her time at Columbia, she served as a leader of the Jewish community and was a force for change on behalf of women's participation in Jewish ritual life. While at the Drisha Institute she traveled around the country to teach young women how to engage Jewish texts and explore their spirituality. She imbued all of her pursuits with youthful energy and zeal.

According to her husband Ari, Beth wished that her legacy be the Jewish value of *chesed*—kindness. Her friends and family remember her for an extraordinary capacity to perform countless acts of kindness for others and help bring out the best in others. They celebrate her short life for its wisdom, zest, and humanity.

My condolences go out to her parents, Elana and Zachary, her husband, Ari, her daughters Danelle and Natalia and her extended friends and family on this solemn occasion.